

INSIGHTS

Volume 4: Issue 8 September 2014

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

September 2014 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,862,000	2,182,781
Employed	146,600,000	2,038,393
Unemployed	9,262,000	144,388
Unemployed Rate	5.9%	6.6%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,015.14	\$767.77
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	41.3
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 24.82	\$ 18.59

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Columbia MSA	1.38%	1.57%
Charleston MSA	1.04%	0.89%
Florence MSA	0.81%	2.89%
Spartanburg MSA	0.69%	1.52%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2014	2013
U.S. Population Ratio	59.0%	58.6%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.2%	54.3%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Sep	Aug	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.7%	62.8%	-0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.1%	57.9%	0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	1.7%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate rises for third month (6.3% to 6.6%)
- Employment increased by about 2,530
- 45 of 46 counties saw decreased unemployment rates.
- Nonfarm payroll employment increased 13,000 from August to September 2014.
- Healthy increases in Leisure and Hospitality and Construction.

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
2,527



Unemployment
6,437



Unemployment
Rate
0.3%



Unemployment Rises for Third Consecutive Month

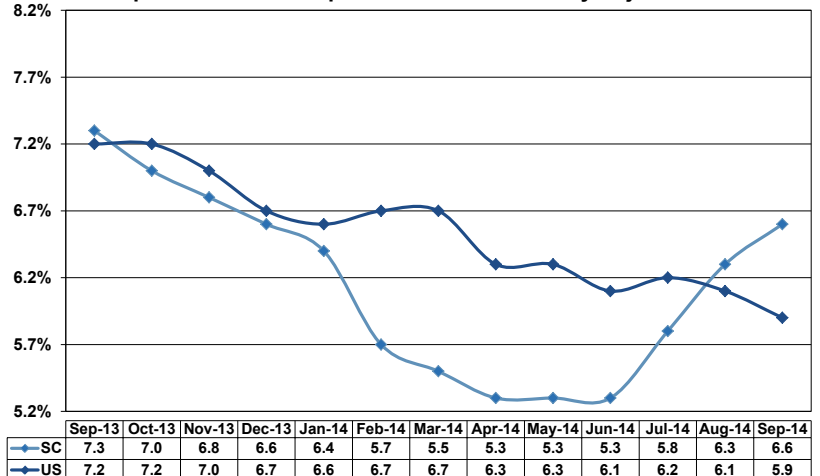
The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September rose for the third consecutive month to 6.6 percent from August's revised unemployment rate of 6.3 percent.

During September, the estimated number of employed people increased 2,527 to 2,038,393. The number of unemployed people was estimated at 144,388, an increase of nearly 6,440. Monthly labor force estimates edged up by about 8,960 to 2,182,781.

From September 2013 to September 2014, approximately 21,260 people found work. The number of unemployed people decreased by nearly 14,620, and the unemployment rate declined 0.7 percentage points. Approximately 6,650 people entered the labor force when compared to a year ago, an increase of about three-tenths of one percent.

Nationally, over the month, the September unemployment rate decreased to 5.9 percent from 6.1 percent in August.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
September 2013 – September 2014 Seasonally Adjusted



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2013 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

State Unemployment Rates

Georgia	7.9
District Of Columbia	7.7
Mississippi	7.7
Rhode Island	7.6
California	7.3
Nevada	7.3
Tennessee	7.3
Michigan	7.2
Oregon	7.1
Arizona	6.9
Alaska	6.8
Kentucky	6.7
North Carolina	6.7
Alabama	6.6
Illinois	6.6
New Mexico	6.6
South Carolina	6.6
West Virginia	6.6
Delaware	6.5
New Jersey	6.5
Connecticut	6.4
Maryland	6.3
Missouri	6.3
Arkansas	6.2
New York	6.2
Florida	6.1
Louisiana	6.0
Massachusetts	6.0
United States	5.9
Maine	5.8
Indiana	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.7
Washington	5.7
Ohio	5.6
Virginia	5.5
Wisconsin	5.5
Texas	5.2
Kansas	4.8
Colorado	4.7
Oklahoma	4.7
Wyoming	4.7
Iowa	4.6
Montana	4.6
Idaho	4.5
Vermont	4.4
New Hampshire	4.3
Hawaii	4.2
Minnesota	4.1
Nebraska	3.6
Utah	3.5
South Dakota	3.4
North Dakota	2.8

South Carolina Ranked 14 of 51 in September

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 31 states experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, eight states had increases, and 11 states and the District of Columbia remained unchanged. In September, South Carolina's 6.6 percent rate ranked 14th highest out of 51. In the Southeast region, South Carolina's rate remained lower than Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

The most significant over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in the District of Columbia (1.1 percent), followed by Alaska at 0.9 percent, and West Virginia at 0.8 percent. The largest decrease in employment was in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia at -0.2 each.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia. The largest over-the-year increase occurred in North Dakota at 5.1 percent, followed by Texas at 3.7 percent, and Utah at 3.6 percent. Alaska experienced an over-the-year decline of -0.2 percent.

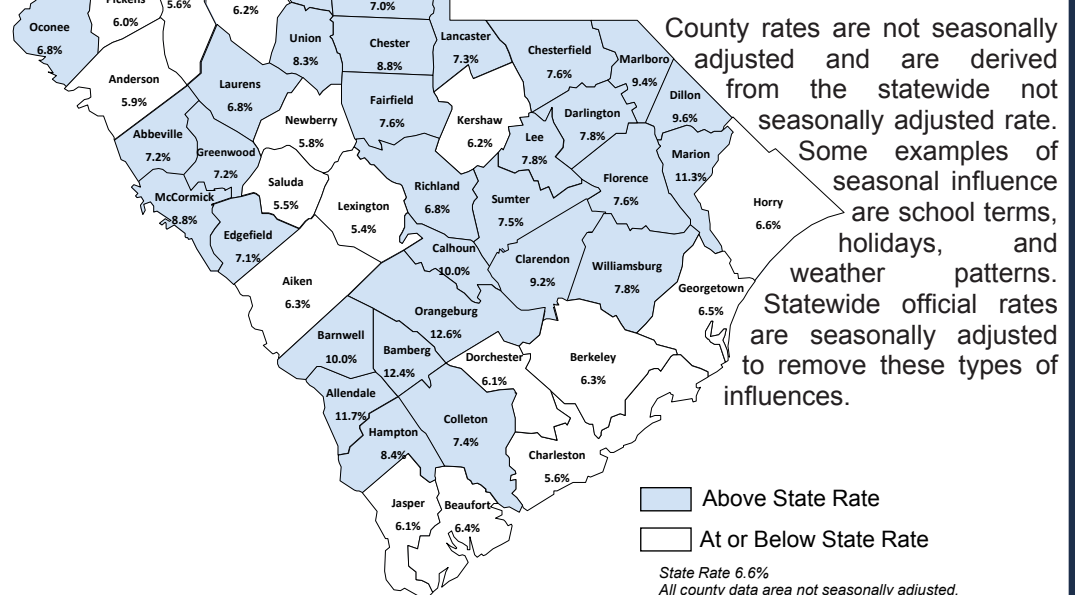
September Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates dropped in September. Over the month, 45 counties across the state showed decreases in their rates. Bamberg, Calhoun, and McCormick counties experienced the largest decreases, declining 0.9 percentage points each. Horry County's unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Orangeburg	12.6%	Lexington	5.4%
Bamberg	12.4%	Saluda	5.5%
Allendale	11.7%	Charleston	5.6%
Marion	11.3%	Greenville	5.6%
Barnwell	10.0%	Newberry	5.8%

Since September 2013, 43 of 46 county unemployment rates have declined. Calhoun (+1.6), Orangeburg (+1.3), and Bamberg (+0.2) counties have marked over-the-year increases in their rates.

Looking at employment growth estimates, 43 of 46 counties have shown increases over the year. Horry County continues to lead in employment gains (+3,774) with Greenville (+2,589) and York counties (+2,589) noting solid gains as well. The majority of the employment growth, nearly 51 percent, has been marked in six counties: Horry, Greenville, York, Florence, Aiken, and Spartanburg during the period.



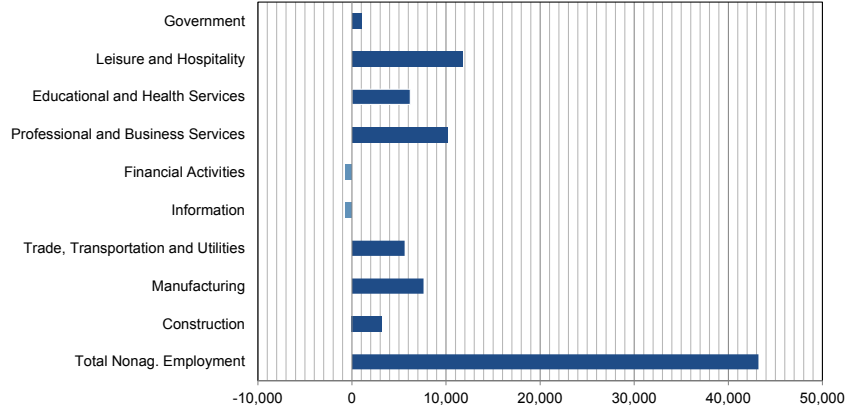
Employment Changes by County July 2014 through September 2014

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Sep 2014	Aug 2014	Jul 2014	Aug '14 - Sep '14	Jul '14 - Aug '14
Abbeville	10,075	10,008	10,132	67	-124
Aiken	71,976	72,711	73,126	-735	-415
Allendale	2,869	2,834	2,850	35	-16
Anderson	82,547	82,494	83,071	53	-577
Bamberg	5,094	5,037	5,100	57	-63
Barnwell	7,415	7,381	7,465	34	-84
Beaufort	61,660	61,235	62,247	425	-1,012
Berkeley	81,942	82,335	83,154	-393	-819
Calhoun	5,991	5,959	5,979	32	-20
Charleston	168,876	169,686	171,374	-810	-1,688
Cherokee	23,319	23,176	23,505	143	-329
Chester	13,518	13,487	13,577	31	-90
Chesterfield	17,368	17,262	17,409	106	-147
Clarendon	11,088	11,001	11,087	87	-86
Colleton	15,756	15,640	15,818	116	-178
Darlington	27,846	27,853	28,110	-7	-257
Dillon	11,443	11,320	11,437	123	-117
Dorchester	65,517	65,831	66,486	-314	-655
Edgefield	10,161	10,265	10,324	-104	-59
Fairfield	9,357	9,307	9,339	50	-32
Florence	58,387	58,401	58,938	-14	-537
Georgetown	27,668	27,744	28,199	-76	-455
Greenville	219,125	218,817	220,085	308	-1,268
Greenwood	28,420	28,210	28,673	210	-463
Hampton	7,057	6,982	7,051	75	-69
Horry	124,330	130,131	134,464	-5,801	-4,333
Jasper	9,994	9,924	10,088	70	-164
Kershaw	27,608	27,462	27,556	146	-94
Lancaster	31,084	30,983	31,292	101	-309
Laurens	28,101	28,062	28,224	39	-162
Lee	7,470	7,406	7,435	64	-29
Lexington	128,774	128,092	128,530	682	-438
McCormick	3,008	2,988	3,028	20	-40
Marion	10,136	10,142	10,260	-6	-118
Marlboro	10,163	10,080	10,175	83	-95
Newberry	17,213	17,039	17,183	174	-144
Oconee	29,554	29,359	29,723	195	-364
Orangeburg	35,764	35,407	35,891	357	-484
Pickens	54,280	54,203	54,517	77	-314
Richland	171,988	171,076	171,661	912	-585
Saluda	8,412	8,367	8,396	45	-29
Spartanburg	130,222	129,805	130,611	417	-806
Sumter	40,798	40,839	41,154	-41	-315
Union	10,655	10,579	10,701	76	-122
Williamsburg	14,357	14,293	14,445	64	-152
York	104,358	105,105	105,005	-747	100

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for September - Seasonally Adjusted

In September 2014, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 13,000 from August. During September, essentially every industrial sector continued to see growth. The most growth in employment occurred in Leisure and Hospitality which gained 3,700. Along with the over-the-month increase in Leisure and Hospitality, there was growth in Construction (+1,800); Manufacturing and Government (+1,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,100); Financial Activities (+400); and Education and Health Services (+300). Information and Other Services remained flat.

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
September 2013 - September 2014 (SA)**



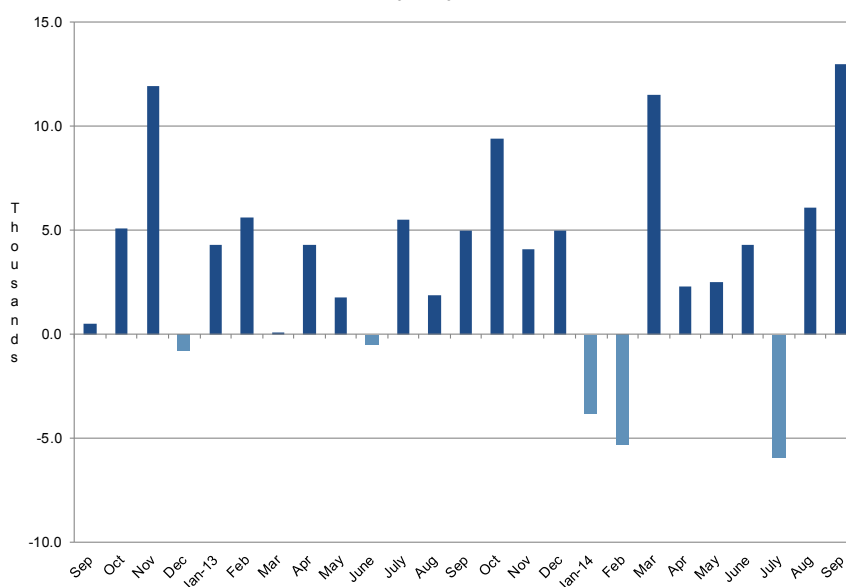
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 43,200. The industry reporting the largest gain since September 2013 was Leisure and Hospitality (+11,800); and slightly below that was Professional and Business Services (+10,200). Additional gains were seen in Manufacturing (+7,600); Education and Health Services (+6,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,600); Construction (+3,200); and Government (+1,000).

Declining industries were Other Services (-900); Financial Activities (-700); and Information (-700).

Essentially every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw a seasonally adjusted over-the-month increase in employment. Columbia had the largest increase (+5,100), followed by Charleston (+3,300), and Greenville (+1,300). Slight increases were seen in Florence (+700), Anderson (+300) and Sumter (+100). The Metropolitan Statistical Area which saw a decline in employment was the Myrtle Beach area (-400).

Every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment growth over-the-year. The most prominent uptick was in Greenville (+8,100), followed by Myrtle Beach (+6,200) and Columbia (+5,800). Additional increases were seen in Charleston (+2,800), Florence (+2,500), Spartanburg (+2,000) and Anderson (+1,800). Modest growth was reported Sumter (+500).

**Change in SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2012-2014**



To see the monthly not-seasonally adjusted data series, go to
www.SCWorkforceInfo.com
 (Employment and Wage Data section)

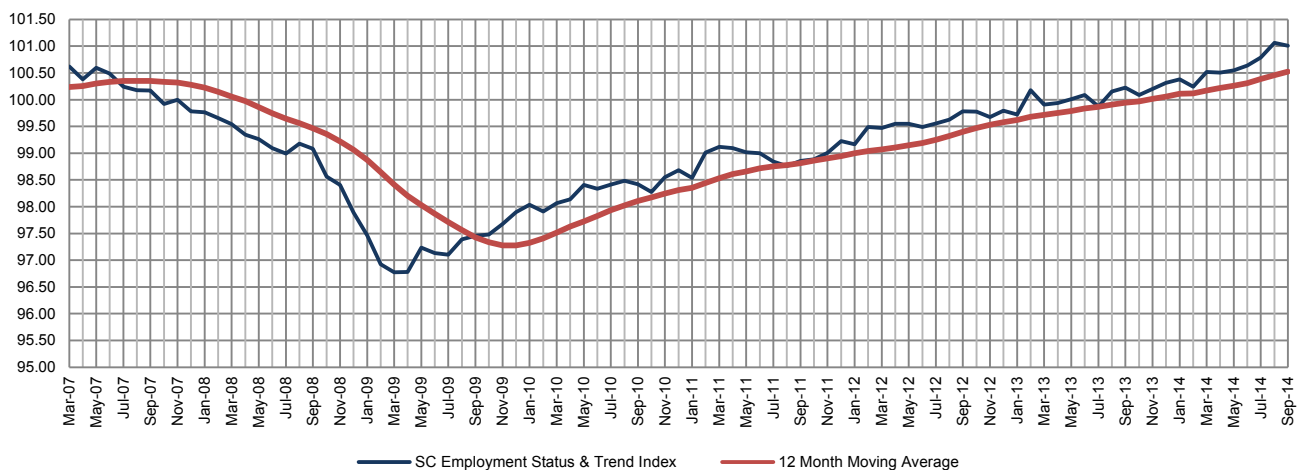
South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Slightly Down

After a strong 0.27 point jump in the previous month, South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) dropped 0.05 points to stand at 101.01 at the end of September. Leading SCESTI's downturn for the month is the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index, which declined almost 8 percent. The Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Working Hours were also lower, dropping 1.33 and 0.24 percent respectively. However, the Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance count and the Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index kept shining, improving 7.12 and 0.3 percent respectively.

Compared with 12 months ago, SCESTI and four of the five index components managed improvements, while only one component (Manufacturing Average Weekly Working Hours) moved 0.48 percent lower. SCESTI was 0.78 percent higher than it was in September 2013. The Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims and the Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads both have seen double-digit improvements, improving 25.70 and 15.59 percent, respectively. The Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index and its US Employment Trends Index were also higher than September 2013, rising 7.23 and 6.39 percent, respectively.

Though down slightly for the month, the overall upward trend of SCESTI remains uninterrupted. The index now stands at its second durational high. It should also be noted that September is the 37th consecutive month (since August 2011) that the index kept its movements above the 12-month moving average, which indicates steady improvements for the employment situation in South Carolina.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index



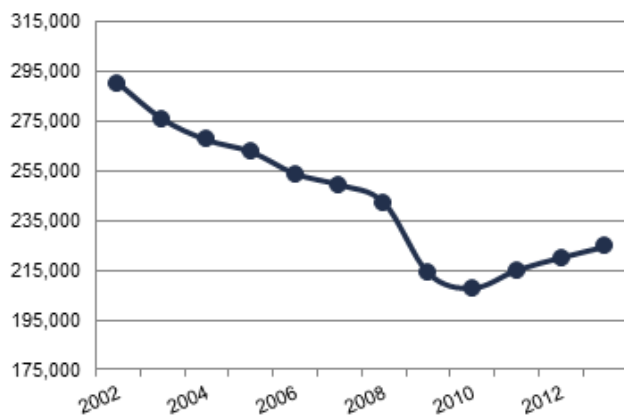
Palmetto State Manufacturing on the Road to Recovery

South Carolina has one of the fastest growing economies in the U.S. and one of the fastest growing manufacturing sectors in the region and nation, according to a recent U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of Economic Analysis report. The report ranked South Carolina's economy as the 12th fastest growing in the nation, coupled with the fastest growing manufacturing Gross Domestic Product on the East Coast.

Employment Trends

Numerous transportation producers have made South Carolina their home-base. Major manufacturers, like Boeing, BMW, Michelin, Bridgestone, and Continental Tire have completed or are in the midst of major expansions. In 2013, manufacturing growth equaled 3.9 percent for exports in the state, and as Giti Tire establishes its new manufacturing facility with 1,700 planned, the Palmetto State continues to rank first as the nation's number one tire exporter.

Manufacturing Employment



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wage

Subsectors

Manufacturing in our state breaks down into five primary subsectors: Food; Chemical; Plastics and Rubber; Fabricated Metal; and Machinery Manufacturing. These primary subsectors along with others formed the industry's estimated 224,533 workers in 2013.

The Manufacturing industry has had an extremely rough past decade as the average employment dropped 7,400 per year. This drop in employment is paired with a similar drop in the average number of companies (around 13 per year). The figures vary largely with the financial well-being of the economy at the time as the number of companies dropped sharply in 2003, 2007, and 2009.

Manufacturing employment has made an extreme turn around, going from decreasing fairly constantly to increasing at a substantial growth rate that would put the 2013 employment estimate at more than 224,000 workers. According to the Department of Commerce, the

manufacturing sector comprised 68 percent of new jobs and 82 percent of capital investment (10,442 jobs and \$4.5 billion in investment) in 2013. If this trend were to continue as employment levels and companies progress, it is possible that the manufacturing employment would maintain a sustainable competitive environment going forward.

Employment Opportunities

SC Top 10 MFG Occupations, 2013

- Team Assemblers
- First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
- Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers
- Machinists
- Helpers--Production Workers
- Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers
- Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders
- Slaughterers and Meat Packers
- Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
- Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics

Top MFG Certifications Requested by employers in South Carolina, June 2014:

- Occupational Safety & Health Administration certification
- Food safety programs
- Material Handling Equipment
- ISO TS16949 (automotive supply chain quality management certification)
- Forklift certification
- Certified Welding Inspector
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers certification
- American Production and Inventory Control Society certification
- Top Secret Sensitive Clearance
- First Aid certification

Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series

Outlook

South Carolina's continual effort to recruit businesses to rural areas of the state has resulted in 3,836 jobs to those counties. It takes strategic efforts to bring new jobs to the state, and with the increasing number of manufacturing companies streaming into South Carolina, this effort has paid off. South Carolina has proven its place as a manufacturing powerhouse as it outnumbers neighboring states in manufacturing.

The Palmetto State formed an environment that has attracted hundreds of manufacturers and created thousands of jobs. Many manufacturers have made the move to or expanded; it is projected that many more will follow suit.